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MESSAGE
OF
THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
TO THE
FIFTH PHILIPPINE LEGISLATURE,

Delivered by His Excellency in the Hall of the Representatives on October 17, 1921.

GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATURE:

My appointment as Governor-General is so recent that I shall not attempt, in this message, to go much into details, but will bring matters requiring your action to your attention from time to time.

My recent and very thorough inspection of the Islands, involving visits to 48 provinces and 449 cities and towns, has given me a very clear idea of conditions throughout the Archipelago. I find the people, as a rule, happy and law-abiding and, in the main, prosperous. Public order is everywhere excellent, with the exception of minor disturbances in the Moro regions.

The Constabulary, as an organization, is well disciplined and efficient. It deserves and has the confidence and support of the people.

Too often the administration of justice has been slow and unsatisfactory. The courts of the Islands are clogged with approximately 50,000 cases awaiting decision.

There are not enough Judges of the First Instance to promptly dispose of the cases coming before them. The Judges of these courts are underpaid. I believe that their number should be increased somewhat; that they should be better paid and that provisions should be made for their retirement in case of disability or after a certain number of years of service. The amount of retired pay should

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depend upon the length of service and the cause for which retired.

A very rigid supervision of the administration of justice should be inaugurated and steps taken to prevent unnecessary delays.

The penal establishments of the Islands and penal colonies are, on the whole, well conducted and carried on under a policy which makes not only for proper punishment of the offender but also for his reform and eventual return to socity as a useful member.

There is a marked business depression throughout the Islands, due principally to the fall, after the World War, in the prices of the principal staple products of the Islands. Happily, this condition is improving and there are many evidences of progressive development in the Islands. This development is gratifying and shows that the Filipino people have responded to improved conditions in transportation, finance, public order and markets.

I am glad to inform you that I find in enighboring countries a very keen desire for closer and more extensive trade relations with the Philippine Islands. This speaks well for future trade development and should be encouraged.

A serious blow has been dealt insular credit through incompetent management of the National Bank. Responsibility for this rests in part upon Filipinos, but also upon those Americans who placed untrained and incompetent men in charge of affairs with which they were unfamiliar. These losses have established a condition which necessitates an economical and efficient administration of the finances of the Islands.

While rigid economy and wise, and careful financial administration are essential for the reestablishment of Insular

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credit, there are certain departments of the Government which, while they should be administered economically, will not permit any curtailment of allotments. These are public health, education, and public works.

Great economies can be made throughout the Insular service by cutting out all unnecessary personnel, the elimination of certain unnecessary expenses, and the consolidation of various activities under the departments to which they properly belong; also by doing away with unnecessary boards and special agencies. Action to this end is already being taken by the Finance Commission, whose report will soon be available for the consideration of the Legislature.

Investigation has also shown an unsatisfactory condition in the public health service and in sanitation. We must pay much more attention to the prevention of disease as well as the care of our sick, our insane, and our defectives. An increasingly vigorous campaign must be attempted against the conditions which are causing the present alarming infant mortality, amounting, as it does, to nearly one death in three among infants in the first year of their lives.

More hospitals and dispensaries are needed. Every effort should be made to secure a larger number of trained nurses for work in hospitals, dispensaries, and the various branches of public health. The Filipino woman has demonstrated great aptitude in these fields and her greater participation should be encouraged.

In brief, public health and sanitation must be given more attention and support, not only for humanitarian reasons but because it is in the care of the sick, the insane and helpless that the civilization and development of a people is in large measure indicated.

The welfare of the people and the efficiency of the public health service will be best served by placing government hospitals, measures for the relief of the sick, and public health agencies, in one department. The present division of authority and responsibility in this important field involves unnecessary expense and is prejudicial to the best interests of the people.

The great leper colony at Culion needs better facilities for the seggregation of those whose reactions have become negative and for the children who are born without apparent taint of the disease. Sufficient appropriation must also be made for continuing the development of the new treatment, which gives such encouraging promise for the cure of the disease. We are now able to provide means for only a portion of those requiring the treatment. The condition is one which demands your prompt and humane consideration.

Conditions with reference to the care and treatment of the insane are deplorably bad. They can be described as medieval and are not consistent either with the humane instincts or the intelligence of the Filipino people.

There is no adequate provision for defectives, such as deaf, dumb and blind. These are matters which should engage your sympathetic attention.

I found everywhere a sound appreciation of the importance of public works, especially communications. This department has, on the whole, been conducted with creditable efficiency. Although much excellent work on roads has been done, there are many instances where roads have been so lightly constructed that they are entirely inadequate to withstand the heavy traffic which has been developed in recent years. The roads are now in need of extensive repairs, especially resurfacing. It will be good

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economy to make these repairs before the road surface is worn through and destroyed. I must strongly urge you, as a general policy, to hold and maintain all your existing roads before new construction is undertaken.

There should be rigid adherence to the policy of permanent construction culverts, bridges, etc., on permanent roads, and a very careful carrying out of the policy of thorough maintenance under the caminero system.

Your attention is invited to the great importance of completing certain roads of vital importance in many of which gaps now exist which render them ineffective, although much money has been spent on the project. An example is the San Jose-Santa Fe road connecting Central Luzon with the Cagayan Valley. This road is of great importance to the sections of the country which it traverses. It will open up and furnish a much-needed outlet for the great Cagayan Valley area.

It is very important to complete the construction of the section of railroad which connects the railroad from Tayabas with that of the Bicol Provinces. Completion of this will not only aid commerce and agriculture but will result in greatly increased revenues for the railroad.

There exists an urgent necessity to finish partially-completed public projects on which a great amount of labor and money have been spent. These projects, be they roads, buildings or port works, will be useless unless they are brought to completion and should receive your most careful consideration after the maintenance of existing public works has received your proper attention.

I also invite your attention to the importance and desirability of pushing forward, as rapidly as funds will permit,

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the irrigation projects now under consideration and those which have been approved. These irrigation projects are of great importance to the development of agriculture, upon which depends, in large part, the prosperity of the people of the Islands. The soil of the Philippines is among the richest in the world. The possibilities of agricultural development are very great, and as a general rule the Islands should be exporters of foodstuffs and not importers.

I also wish to invite your attention to the urgent necessity of expediting completion of the cadastral survey and the establishment of agencies through which applicants for titles and holders of land may be able to procure promptly titles to the same. The Filipino loves to own his land. Nothing will be more conducive to good order and stability than to have as many people as possible living on land which they own.

The abolition of the Court of Land Registration and the transfer of its duties to Courts of First Instance, already overloaded with work and with a personnel more or less inexpert in these cases, was, in my opinion, an error of judgement. It should be corrected by the reestablishment of the Court of Land Registration, with an adequate personnel.

I feel very strongly that as a general policy, the Government should get out and keep out of business, especially all business which involves competition with and discouragement of legitimate private enterprise; and that legislation tending to discourage private enterprise should be considered as prejudicial to public interests.

There is another matter to which I wish to invite your serious attention - the maintenance of a proper separation between the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of the Government. In my opinion, it is most important - indeed, vital - to well-balanced government that each of these great departments should function within its own limits.

I also invite your attention and consideration to the desirability of placing the Bureau of Non-Christian Tribes under the Department of Public Instruction, in order to facilitate the preparation of these groups to undertake more fully the responsibilities of citizenship. I believe that the transfer will be for the best interests of the Government and of all concerned, and recommend that it be made.

The interest and enthusiasm of the Filipino people to provide an adequate system of public instruction, free to all, is beyond praise. Great results have been accomplished, results which speak volumes for the intelligence and capacity of the people. In our enthusiasm to provide means for higher education through the establishment of intermediate and high schools, we must not overlook the vital importance of thorough training in the elementary schools. It is estimated that the majority of children leave school between the third and fourth school year.

The University of the Philippines is full of promise. Its administration should be put a sound business basis and steps taken to provide the best possible teaching force.

The agricultural schools should be amplified and every effort made to induce students to prepare themselves thoroughly for agricultural work.

The control of public health is rapidly developing into a science, and an adequately trained personnel is essential to successfully combat the causes of disease. Steps should be taken in connection with the University of the Philippines to establish a school of hygiene and public health, to provide this necessary training. Funds should be made available for the maintenance, upon an efficient basis, of the Bureau of Science. It is one of the most important and valuable institution of the Insular Government. Formerly it was the center of advanced research work in the East, and did

I also invite your attentive and favorable consideration to the Bureau of Forestry which is now under the Department of Public Instruction, in order to facilitate the preparation of these groups to undertake more fully the responsibilities of citizenship. I believe that the transfer will be for the best interests of the Government and of all concerned, and recommend that it be made.

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work of inestimable value not only to the people of the Islands but to the world at large.

No efforts should be spared to push forward the teaching of English, for the possession of a common language will do much to strengthen the spirit of solidarity and facilitate the building up of a widely circulating press and an instructed public opinion. To this end it is important that a sufficient number of thorough-trained American teachers be provided.

Both agriculture and commerce are seriously hampered by lack of adequate coastwise communications. It is very important that the Legislature should give this matter serious attention. Present facilities are generally unsatisfactory.

In conclusion, I wish to invite your attention to the cordial hospitality which has been extended to the Special Mission to the Philippine Islands by the people throughout the Islands. Nothing could have been more cordial. Their ready and cheerful cooperation in the investigations of the Mission were of the greatest assistance and made the satisfactory conduct of its work possible.

I know that I speak for all the members of the Mission in expressing to you, the duly elected representatives of the people, our appreciation of their courtesy, their hospitality and their cooperation.

LEONARD WOOD,
Governor-General.

To the Philippine Legislature,
Manila.

October 17, 1921.

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